

CONFIDENTIAL

24th Jan 1993

Dear Harry,

I hope your visit to Dallas went well and that you achieved your objective.

Sorry to have been so long in writing this.

I have enclosed two photostats of photographs which may be of help to you.

1. From the Illustrated London News dated Nov 30th 1963 showing the arrival of the casket at Andrews Airforce Base. That is the casket in which we placed the Presidents body. The colour was bronze and according to the people from the funeral home it was the best they had.

2. From the Hospital Highlights the news letter of the Dallas County Hospital District, of the trauma room where Kennedy was treated. The photograph was taken for that edition of the news letter so it shows the room as it was at the time of the assassination. I thought it may help with the placement or non-placement of photographs, eg. tiles, also gurney covers which were black. As I remember all the wall tiles in the Emergency Room were the same height.

I understood the last time I was in Dallas, about two years after the assassination, that the Emergency Room was to be moved and enlarged so I am assuming that it no longer exists in its original form.

I hope these will of some assistance. Please ring me if you need any clarification; I will be away until the end of Feb.

I would be grateful if you would refer to me as Bowron in any of your books

Yours sincerely

Diane?

Buckhorn

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The following is in answer to your questions

When the president expired everyone left the room apart from Miss Hinchcliffe, a male orderly and myself. We tidied the room and changed the linen on the gurney and washed the body as best we could. Miss Hinchcliffe and the orderly left the room but I was told to remain with the body until the casket arrived. I was told that I was the only person who had been one of the people who had taken the body from the car. I remained in the room until the casket arrived and her respects. After she had left I was asked, by a man I did not know, to go and get all pieces of skull and brain I could find and place them in a plastic bag which he gave me. I did and returned the bag to him (there were only a few fragments of bone that had stuck in the dressings and towels that we had used to pack the hole in the back of the head). I remained in the room until the people from the funeral home arrived. After we had placed the body in the casket and it had been closed I was allowed to leave. During the time I was with the body only the widow and the priest came into the room, any dealings I had with the Secret Service were done in the doorway; no one else entered the room and no photographs were taken.

Apart from 2-3 mins, when I left the trauma room to collect blood from the Blood Bank, I was with the body from the car until it was placed in the casket. Being new to the establishment, I was assigned to Minor Medicine and Surgery, which was across the hall from the Triage desk and the major sections of the Emergency room. It being very quiet, there were only two or three patients waiting for the results of tests, I was talking to the Triage nurse when the call went up for gurneys. I grabbed a gurney in the hall and together with an orderly ran to the entrance. I saw that the person in the back of the car was injured so I climbed in to render what assistance I could until such time as we could move him to a trolley, then to the trauma room (others were assisting the Governor in the front seat). I saw that there was a massive amount of blood on the back seat and in order to find the cause I lifted his head and my fingers went into a large wound in the back of his head. I turned his head and seeing the size of the wound realized that I could not stop the bleeding. I turned his head back and saw an entry wound in the front of the throat. I could feel no pulse at the jugular and having seen the extent of the injury to the back of the head I assumed that he was dead (not my job, only a Doctor can certify death). When we got the President to the Trauma room, word had reached the Trauma team and they were ready with I.V.s etc. I worked with the team, assisting where needed for about 10 mins (time is difficult to judge in those circumstances). When I was told to go to the Blood Bank, I was away 2-3 mins and on my return I continued to assist where needed until the President was declared dead.

Miss Margaret Hinchcliffe and an African-American orderly and I prepared the body for the coffin.

I observed no strange activity of any kind and saw no bullets.

As explained above, I thought after examination in the car that he was dead. There was no damage to the front of his face, only the gaping wound in the back of his head and the entry wound in his throat.

When we prepared the body for the coffin we washed the face and closed the eyes, there was no damage to the face, there was no flap of scalp on the right, neither was there a laceration pointing toward the right eyebrow from the scalp.

When we were preparing the body for the coffin we lifted it over in order to remove the bloodstained sheet from underneath and to wipe away the blood from the back of the body. I saw

another entry wound in the upper back (the other entry wound being in front of the throat) . With reference to the photograph The Back (F5) I only saw one wound, and not the number of wounds in the photograph I do not think that the photo (F5) of the President I have marked for you on the postcard that you sent me were I think the entry wound was.

I first saw the large wound in the back of the head in the car when we were preparing the body for the coffin I had the opportunity to examine it more closely. It was about 5ins in diameter, there was no flap of skin covering it just a hole in the skin along part of the edges of bone, there was however some hair hanging down from the top of the head which was caked with blood, and most of the brain was missing. The wound was so large I could almost put my whole fist inside.

When we prepared the body I washed as much blood as I could from the hair; while doing this I did not see any other wound either in the temples or in other parts of the head.

I did not see anything suspicious about any of the doctors. I think there were far more doctors there than they should have been, perhaps because it was a tragedy and they all wanted to get in on the act. You must remember that I had only been there a short time and I did not know all the doctors, some I never saw again, but they were all known to each other. With regard to a post in this context I think it would refer to a gathering of the doctors after the event to discuss the case. This was standard practice, when more than one or two doctors were involved.

When the body was placed in the coffin the wound at the back of the head was packed with gauze squares and wrapped in small white sheet, there was no terrycloth or other type of towel used.

The coffin or casket was bronze with plain fittings, as in the enclosed photograph.

I don't think the body was removed from the coffin. After I left the Trauma room I was in a position to see if any one entered or left the room. No one entered or left until they removed the coffin.

A clear plastic sheet was placed in the bottom of the coffin which may have been a mattress cover; the body was wrapped in at the most two sheets plus the one around the head, all the sheets were white and none had zips. There was no "body bag".

Perhaps the following will be of interest to you.

As soon as the coffin left the trauma room, I went back to Minor Med and Surg. to resume my work; I don't know anything about the fight with Earl Rose, which happened at that time.

When I arrived there I found that the patients had been moved elsewhere, and the department had been taken over by the Vice President and his staff. They were getting ready to leave when I got there, as they passed me I heard the Vice President say to his wife "Make a note of what everyone says and does".

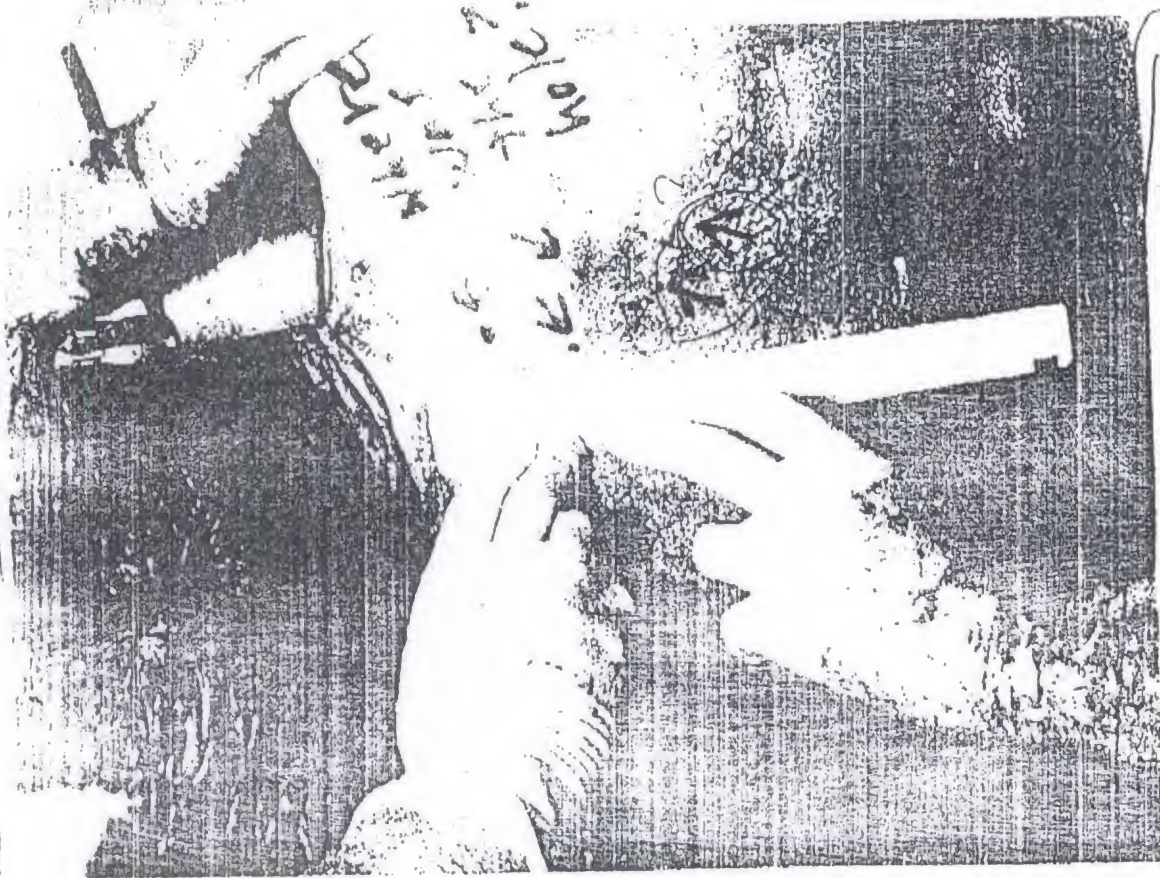
Again I hope this is of some help to you.

Diane Bowden

4

THIS IS NOT THE BACK I SAW

There are three apparent bullet holes, one near the shoulder, which some
call, and a deep incision some seven inches down on the left
side. Navy photographer and others say is the real bullet hole. It is not
the back of the head. This
hole is no bullet hole in the center of the head. This
hole is made by the steel, and other pressure
on the skin.



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This is where I removed the wound



Dr. J. M. POWELL

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